

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1980BUENOS04679

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

<<<<.>>>>

UNCLASSIFIED

P077

R

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04679 062056Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /057 W
-----120938 062153Z /66

P R 062019Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5635
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part (☒) in Full

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4679

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC ALSO
ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/30/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY-MAY 31-JUNE 6, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4457

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A REPORT THIS WEEK
OF A MARCH 18 DISAPPEARANCE, BRINGING TO THREE THE NUMBER
OF SUBSTANTIATED 1980 DISAPPEARANCES -- ALL OCCURRING IN
MARCH. (SEE ALSO B.A. 4456 REPORTING AN APPARENT DEATH
WHILE IN CUSTODY WHICH REMAINS UNACKNOWLEDGED BY
AUTHORITIES.) THE ARMY COMMANDER AND THE AIR FORCE
COMMANDER USED EXCEPTIONALLY HARD WORDS DURING THE WEEK TO
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BUENOS 04679 062056Z

DESCRIBE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND
TO JUSTIFY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY'S ROLE IN THE "DIRTY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1980BUENOS04679

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

WAR". END SUMMARY.

2. [REDACTED] DISAPPEARANCE REPORTED. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MANUEL TORRENTE, A 35 YEAR OLD WORKER, FROM HIS HOME IN CAMPANA ON MARCH 18 WAS REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY THIS WEEK. (THE DISAPPEARANCE WAS REPORTED SEPTEL.) ONE ARGENTINE OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED THE TORRENTE CASE RECALLED THAT IN THE "NORTHERN CORRIDOR" -- THE RIVER LITTORAL AREA NORTH OF BUENOS AIRES WHERE CAMPANA IS LOCATED -- THERE WAS A RECENT OPERATION AGAINST MONTONERO "TEI" SPECIAL INFANTRY TROOPS. THESE WERE APART, THE OFFICIAL SAID, FROM OPERATIONS AGAINST MONTONEROS REINFLITRATED INTO THE COUNTRY FROM ABROAD IN RECENT MONTHS. WE DO NOT YET HAVE CONFIRMATION OF THESE OPERATIONS HOWEVER FROM USUAL SECURITY SOURCES, NOR ANY INDICATION THAT TORRENTE MIGHT HAVE BEEN LINKED TO THOSE MONTONERO GROUPS.

3. (U) TOUGH TALK FROM THE SERVICES. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE AND THE ARMY PUBLICLY ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED-- AND THOSE WHO SEARCH FOR THEM--IN HARSH AND UNCOMPROMISING TERMS.

4. (U) GENERAL GALTIERI, THE ARMY COMMANDER STATED: "THE SUBJECT OF 'HUMAN RIGHTS' WOULD BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD IF IT WERE CALLED WHAT IT REALLY IS: 'THE CONSEQUENCES OF AGGRESSION CARRIED OUT BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS TO DISSOLVE ARGENTINE SOCIETY.' IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ADVANCE ANY FURTHER IN CLARIFYING THE COMPLEX TANGLE OF ACTIONS AND REACTIONS...CAN ANYONE DOUBT HOW BLOODY IT WAS... THAT IS THE WAY IT WAS... AND THE PERSISTENCE IN DAMAGING

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 04679 062056Z

THE IMAGE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY BEHIND THE SCREAM OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN ONLY BE BASED IN COMPLICITY, ALIENATION, SUPINE IGNORANCE, OR MORAL IRRESPONSIBILITY. IT IS A PAGE OF HISTORY THAT TO ACHIEVE THE PRIZE OF GLORY IT WAS NECESSARY TO PASS THROUGH AREAS OF MUD AND DARKENESS. IT IS HAPPILY A MATTER OF THE PAST WHICH NOBODY ABSOLUTELY NOBODY SHOULD THINK OF REOPENING."

5. (U) AIR FORCE COMMANDER GRAFFIGNA STATED ON MAY 20: 'NO ONE WAS IMMUNE FROM THE THREAT OF THE ACTION GOUPS THAT HOPED TO DESTROY OUR WAY OF LIFE... EVEN TODAY WITH THE GUERRILLA FORCES NEUTRALIZED VOICES ARE HEARD WHICH

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1980BUENOS04679

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

HOPE TO OBTAIN CREDITS FOR BASTARD ENDS: TO GENERATE PITY FOR THOSE WHO FELL, DISAPPEARED OR FLED IN CONFRONTATIONS THE LEGAL FORCES OF ORDER AND SECURITY... IF THE DECEITS OF FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS WHICH TRY TO BECOME INSPECTORS OF ARGENTINA ARE UNACCEPTABLE, ONLY THE SUGGESTION OF ADHESION TO THEM BY ARGENTINES IS AN ABERRANT DEED WORTH OF MOST SERIOUS DISQUALIFICATION AND CONDEMNATION... TODAY THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT. IN ARGENTINA ONE LIVES WITH ORDER AND JUSTICE."

6. [REDACTED] COMMENT. THE MILITARY'S HARD LINE ON KEEPING THE PAST A CLOSED BOOK IS NOT NEW THOUGH THE LANGUAGE HERE HAS AN ESPECIALLY TOUGH EDGE. MORE NOTEWORTHY IS THE ATTENTION THE TWO MEN PAID TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND ARGENTINES WHO MIGHT APPROACH THEM FOR HELP. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE HOWEVER THAT THESE HARSH WORDS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THREATS TO HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HERE, MUCH LESS ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, THE REMARKS WERE INTENDED AS MORAL DISSUASION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS (E.G. DISAPPEARED RELATIVES) WHO MIGHT SEEK RECOURSE TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE HAVE DETECTED NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH EFFORTS TO SHOW THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS ARE HAVING ANY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 BUENOS 04679 062056Z

EFFECT--OUR CONTACTS HERE SEEM TO HAVE SHRUGGED OFF THE GENERALS' REMARKS. ONE POSITIVE NOTE IS THE CLEAR IMPLICATION BY BOTH MEN THAT THE WAR IS OVER.

7. (U) PETITION ON DISAPPEARED: A PETITION ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF 135 DISAPPEARED MINORS WAS DELIVERED TO THE JUNTA JUNE 4 BY THEIR RELATIVES. REPORT-EDLY MOST OF THE MISSING YOUTH--FROM THREE MONTHS TO 18 YEARS OLD--WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES BY INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

8. [REDACTED] THE MISSING MINORS IS NOT A NEW STORY, OF COURSE. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO A PETITION ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF 65 YOUNG MEN WHO DISAPPEARED WHILE DOING THEIR MILITARY SERVICE WAS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL SPANISH LANGUAGE PRESS.
HAPLIN

[REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3